

Pentecost 2015

## Pastoral Letter from the Bishops, Dean, Archdeacons and Diocesan Secretary to the Clergy and Churchwardens of the Oxford Diocese

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place (Acts 2.1)*

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Clearly it has come as a disappointment that the Crown Nominations Commission were unable to nominate someone to be the next Bishop of Oxford at their recent meeting. Furthermore the fact that they will be unable to interview further candidates until March next year is frustrating. This means, of course, that we are unlikely to have a new bishop in post before the early autumn of 2016.


With so much going on that is good and vibrant, we can clearly no longer afford to put things on hold pending our new Bishop's arrival.

We will therefore be pressing forward with the decisions we believe are needed in the coming months to support the vision of Living Faith of joining with God in creating a caring, sustainable and growing Christian presence in every part of the Diocese of Oxford.

So, more specifically, we will be pressing ahead with the appointment of a new Director of Mission and a new Diocesan Director of Ordinands; we will be progressing the move to new offices; we will begin implementing the Archdeaconry Mission Action Plans; we will continue to foster the growth of work in our schools; we will be encouraging vocations to lay and ordained ministries in new ways; we will move forward with church planting in our new housing areas; and, above all else, the prayers and worship of the Church will continue to be central to our life.

We believe that there are some remarkable opportunities at the moment being given to us by God for growing the Church and the Kingdom.

Please continue to pray that we may, as Christ's body here on earth, seize hold of them in the next fifteen months to be benefit of the Diocese and the Glory of God.

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The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE  
Bishop of Dorchester  
Acting Bishop of Oxford

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson  
Bishop of Buckingham

The Rt Revd Andrew Proud  
Bishop of Reading

The Very Revd Martyn Percy  
Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

The Ven Judy French  
Archdeacon of Dorchester

The Ven Karen Gorham  
Archdeacon of Buckingham

The Ven Olivia Graham  
Archdeacon of Berkshire

The Ven Martin Gorick  
Archdeacon of Oxford

Rosemary Pearce  
Diocesan Secretary